Further, proposals recently received through the State Governments/ Union Territories for setting up SEZs at Mangalore, Bangalore, Hassan, (Karnataka), Shastri Park (New Delhi), Ghazibad (U.P.) Mohali, Amritsar (Punjab), Nagpur (Maharashtra) and Trivandrum (Kerala) are under the consideration of the Government and final decision would be taken shortly.

The State Governments who made preliminary enquiries for setting up of Special Economic Zones include Goa and Himachal Pradesh.

Permission for export of plants, herbs and its derivatives

*332. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that plants and herbs and its derivatives are allowed to be exported to other countries with express permission of the Ministry only;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some Japanese tourists visiting Sikkim recently have collected 3 truck loads of herbarium (plants speciment for Botanical Studies) in Tokyo but the collected materials are seized by the Government of Sikkim; and

(c) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that one citizen of the Czech Republic collected in 2003 rare plant seeds from North and West Sikkim Reserve Forest and has now advertised in website in Europe for sale of the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Foreign Trade Policy permits export of plants, plant portions their derivatives and extracts subject to conditions. The export of certain species notably those falling under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora, is prohibited. Exemption-from this provision can be granted by Directorate General of Foreign Trade on the recommendation of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, for the purpose of research education and life saving drugs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The State Government of Sikkim has informed that a resident of Sidlistni in Czech Republic had claimed to have collected wild flower seeds of eighty four species of alpine flowers from North and West Sikkim

during 2003 and advertised through a website for sale to garden growers during October, 2004. The State Government has taken appropriate action in the matter and is also in the process of taking legal action in a court of law in the State.

Entrepreneur Centre

† *333. DR. CHHATTRAPAL SINGH LODHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a plan to set up Entrepreneur Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the aims to set up Entrepreneur Centre; and

(d) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Recognizing the key role of entrepreneurship development in growth of industries, the Government of India has established/supported several institutions for entrepreneurship development.

(b) to (d) There are 3 national level autonomous training institutions under the Ministry of Small Scale Industries which provide training for entrepreneurship development, *viz.* the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (HE) at Guwahati, National Institute of Small Industry Extension Training (NISIET) at Hyderabad and the National Institute of Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Board (NIESBDB) at Noida.

Under the Entrepreneurship Development Institutions (EDIs) Scheme being implemented by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, financial assistance is provided to strengthen the infrastructure of existing EDIs and also for setting up new institutes. One time capital grant of upto Rs. 1 crore is provided by the Central Government to the institutes for building, equipment, training aids, etc. The remaining amount, in the form of matching contribution, is provided by the State Government concerned or a public sector financial institution. Financial assistance of Rs. 13.94 crores has been provided to 22 State level EDIs so far.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.